AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A fabric softener composition comprising:

(a) from 0.01% to 50% by weight of a cationic or non-ionic softening compound;

(b) at least 0.001%, by weight, of a water dispersible cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl addition monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 5 to 500 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent;

(c) from 0 to 5% by weight of a non-confined fragrance oil;

(d) an effective amount of at least one fabric or skin beneficiating ingredient encapsulated within an organic polymer core and having at the exterior of the core a hydroxy functional polymer attached to the core so as to form a shell at least partially about said core; said hydroxy functional polymer not being removed from the core in water; and

(e) ~~at least 0.001% of a chelating compound capable of chelating metal ions and selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid compounds, organo aminophosphonic acid compounds and mixtures thereof; and~~

~~(f)~~ balance water and optionally one or more adjuvant materials; wherein said composition is in the form of a dryer sheet.

26. (Currently amended) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 26 wherein the cationic softening compound is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Difatty ~~dialkly~~ dialkyl quaternary ammonium compounds;

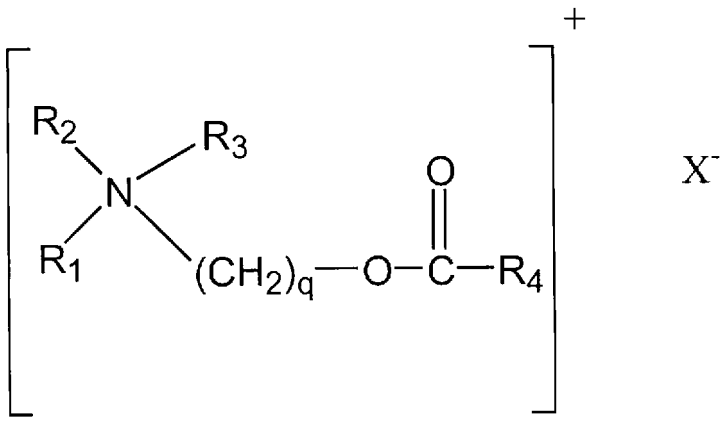
(b) Fatty ester quaternary ammonium compounds;

(c) Alkyl imidazolinium compounds; and

(d) Fatty amide quaternary ammonium compounds.

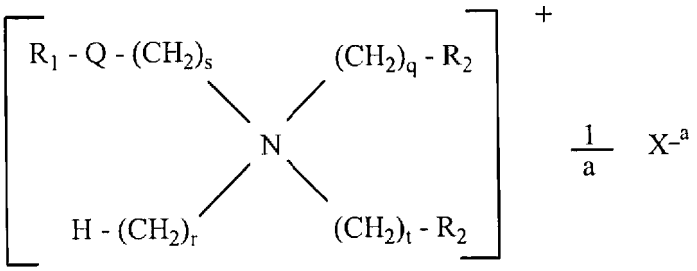
27. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 25 wherein the non-ionic softening compound is selected from the group consisting of fatty amidoamine.

28. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 26 wherein said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound is a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound having the formula:



wherein R_4 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms; R_2 and R_3 represent $(CH_2)_s$-R_5 where R_5 represents an alkoxy carbonyl group containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) – alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; R1 represents $(CH_2)_t$ R_6 where R_6 represents benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) – alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; q, s, and t, each independently, represent an integer from 1 to 3; and X^- is a softener compatible anion.

29. (Previously presented) A fatty softening composition in accordance with claim 26 having a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound derived from the reaction of an alkanol amine and a fatty acid derivative followed by quaternization, said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound being represented by the formula:



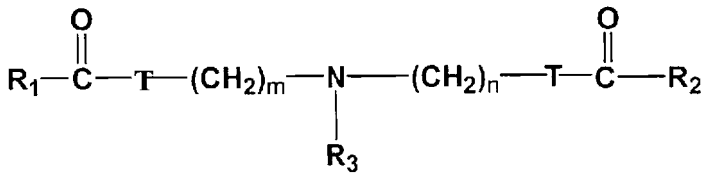
wherein Q represents a carboxyl group having the structure –OCO- or -COO-; R_1 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms; R_2 represents -Q-R_1 or –OH; q, r, s and t, each independently represent a number of from 1 to 3; and X^{-a} is an anion of valence a;

wherein said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound is comprised of a distribution of monoester, diester and triester compounds, the monoesterquat compound being formed when each R_2 is –OH; the diesterquat compound being formed when one R_2 is –OH and the other R_2 is -Q-R_1; and the triesterquat compound being formed when each R_2 is –Q-R^1; and

wherein the normalized percentage of monoesterquat compound in said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound is from 28% to 39%; the normalized percentage of diesterquat compound is from 52% to 62% and the normalized percentage of triesterquat compound is from 7% to 14%; all percentages being by weight.

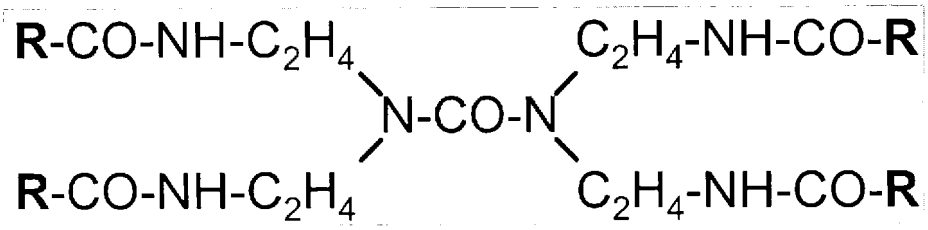
30. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 27 wherein said fatty amidoamine has the formula (I or II):

Formula I



wherein R_1 and R_2, independently, represent C_{12} to C_{30} aliphatic hydrocarbon groups, R_3 represents $(CH_2CH_2O)_pH$, CH_3 or H; T represents NH; n is an integer from 1 to 5; m is an integer from 1 to 5 and p is an integer from 1 to 10;

Formula II (Alkyl Carbamidoethyl Urea; R is a C_{12} to C_{22} Alkyl Group)



31. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 25 wherein said cross-linked cationic polymer is a cross-linked copolymer of a quaternary ammonium acrylate or methacrylate in combination with an acrylamide co-monomer.

32. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 25 wherein said organic polymer in (d) is a polymer of a vinyl monomer or urea-formaldehyde or melamine-formaldehyde.

33. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 32 wherein said organic polymer is a polymer of one or more monomers which are acrylic and/or alkyl acrylic esters of formula

$$H_2C{=}C(R_1)-CO_2R_2$$

where R_1 is hydrogen or alkyl (including branched alkyl) of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R_2 is alkyl (including branched alkyl) of 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

34. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 25 wherein said hydroxy functional polymer in (d) is cellulose or chemically modified cellulose.

35. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 27 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or methyl, R_2 is alkyl (including branched alkyl) of 3 or 4 carbon atoms and said hydroxy functional polymer is polyvinyl alcohol which is at least 88% hydrolyzed from polyvinyl acetate.

36. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25 wherein the fabric or skin beneficiating ingredient is selected from the group consisting of perfumes or fragrance oils, anti-bacterial agents, vitamins, skin conditioners, UV absorbers and enzymes.

37. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 36 wherein the fabric or skin beneficiating ingredient is a perfume or fragrance oil.

38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 36 wherein the perfume or skin beneficiating ingredient is mixed with a polymer or non-polymeric carrier material or surfactant or solvent or mixtures thereof.

39. (Previously presented) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 25 which is in the form of a liquid, powder or gel.

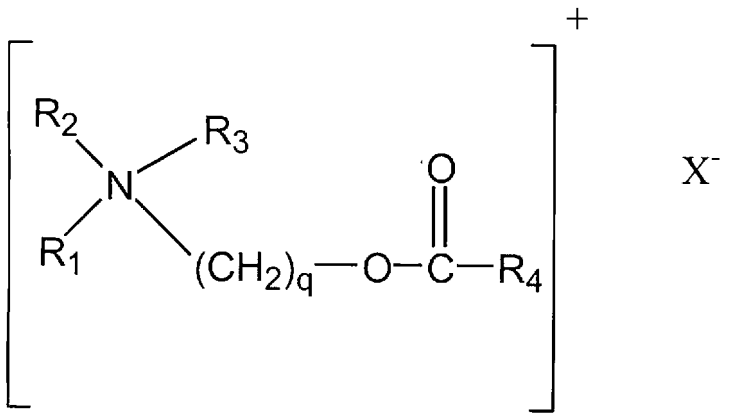
40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) A method of imparting softness to fabrics comprising contacting said fabrics with an effective amount of the fabric softening composition of claim 25.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein said fabrics are contacted during the rinse cycle of a laundry washing machine or hand wash laundry treatment.

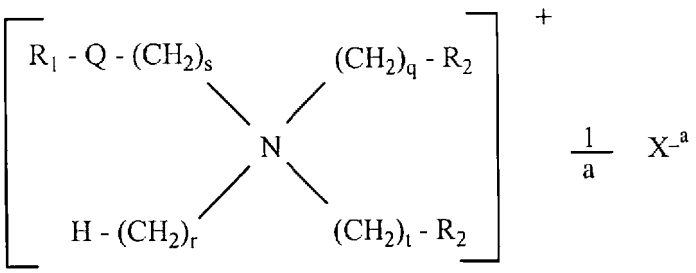
43. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 41 wherein said fabric softening compound is a fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound.

44. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 42 wherein said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound has the formula



wherein R_4 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, R_2 and R_3 represent $(CH_2)_s$-R_5 where R_5 represents an alkoxy carbonyl group containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) – alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; R_1 represents $(CH_2)_t$ R_6 where R_6 represents benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) – alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; q, s, and t, each independently, represent an integer from 1 to 3; and X^- is a softener compatible anion.

45. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 42 wherein the fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound is derived from the reaction of an alkanol amine and a fatty acid derivative followed by quaternization, said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound being represented by the formula :



wherein Q represents a carboxyl group having the structure –OCO- or -COO-; R_1 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms; R_2 represents -Q-R_1 or –OH; q, r, s and t, each independently represent a number of from 1 to 3; and X^{-a} is an anion of valence a;

wherein said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound is comprised of a distribution of monoester, diester and triester compounds, the monoesterquat compound being formed when each R_2 is –OH; the diesterquat compound being formed when one R_2 is –OH and the other R_2 is -Q-R1; and the triesterquat compound being formed when each R_2 is -Q-R1; and

wherein the normalized percentage of monoesterquat compound in said fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound is from 28% to 39%; the normalized percentage of diesterquat compound is from 52% to 62% and the normalized percentage of triesterquat compound is from 7% to 14%; all percentages being by weight.

46. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 41 wherein said fabric or skin beneficiating ingredient is a perfume or fragrance oil.

47. (New) A fabric softening composition in accordance with claim 1 which further contains at least 0.001% of a chelating compound capable of chelating metal ions and selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid compounds, organo aminophosphonic acid compounds and mixtures thereof.